



Forum Report

The 6th Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum

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Executive Summary

The 6th Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (6th CamIDF) was hosted by Open Development Cambodia Organization on March 26-27, 2024, at Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT). On the first day, there were 41 participants in total with 12 were female. On the second day, there were 33 participants, 11 of them were female. The participants were Cambodia ICT Camp 2018-2022 alumni, government officials, digital rights defenders, civil society organizations, business owners, start-ups, private sector, people with disabilities, indigenous people community, LGBT+ community, journalists, university students, and the public who is interested in ICT and digital sector in Cambodia. Many topics were covered, including but not limited to, studying Chinese and Western tech flows in Cambodia, child online protection and digital literacy, the progress and challenges of the personal data protection law, open data policy, and the innovative and inclusive ICT and digital solutions and projects.

This 6th CamIDF was partnered with CADT Institute of Digital Research and Innovation. It is also supported by the European Union research council, through the research project digisilk led by Dr. Oreglia. Other supporting partners include Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Fujitsu, and UNICEF.



Participants

The event saw a total of 41 participants on the first day, of which 12 were female. The second day had 33 participants, including 11 females. This diverse participation underscored the forum's inclusive nature, reflecting a broad spectrum of society and professional backgrounds.



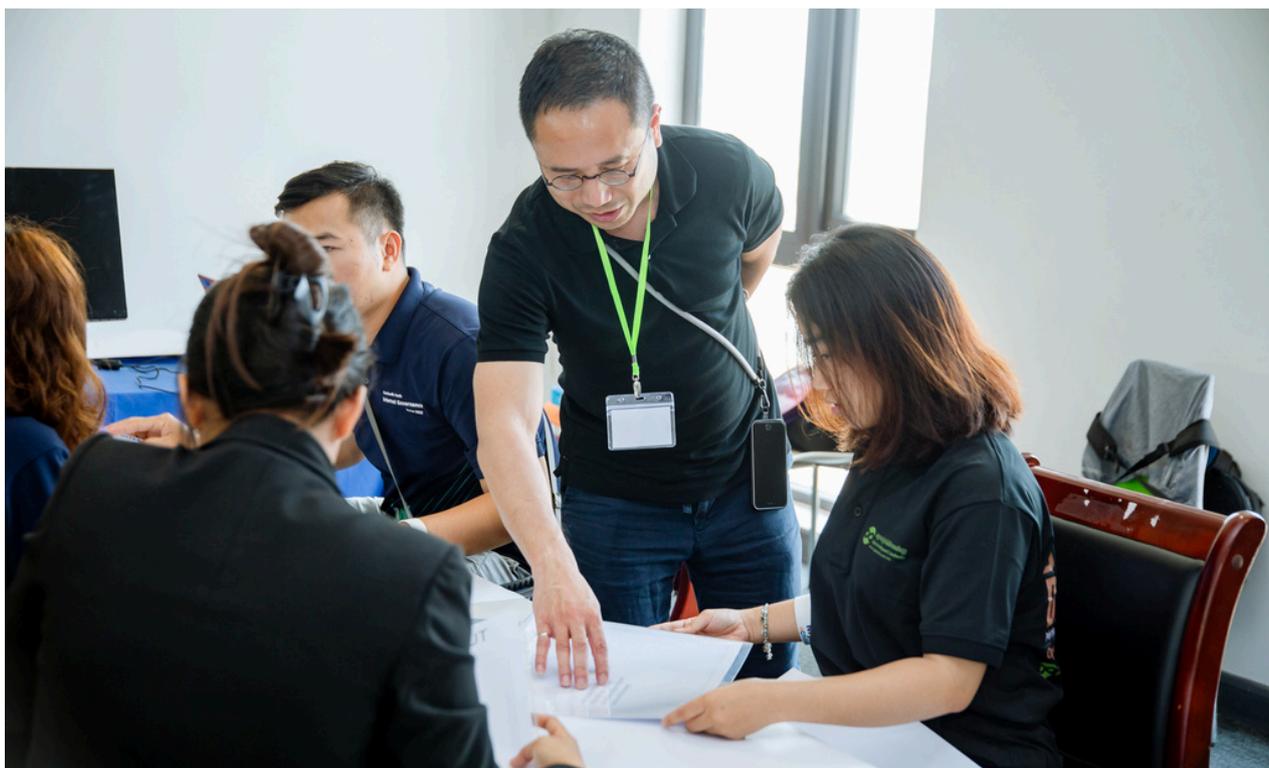
Topics and Discussions

A wide array of topics were addressed during the forum, highlighting the dynamic nature of the ICT and digital landscape in Cambodia. Key discussions included:

- **The influence of Chinese and Western technology flows within the Cambodian context:** Participants explored the impact and integration of technological innovations and infrastructure from China and Western countries, discussing how these influences shape the local tech ecosystem and digital economy in Cambodia.



- **Child online protection and adolescent empowerment:** This topic featured an in-depth examination of the challenges and solutions in safeguarding children online. A highlight was the drawing hackathon, an interactive activity designed to engage participants and raise awareness about online safety through creative expression. Participants participated in a drawing session where they illustrated concepts of online protection, helping to embed important safety messages in an engaging manner.





- **The ongoing development and hurdles associated with the personal data protection law:** Experts discussed the current status of the personal data protection law in Cambodia, identifying key challenges and proposing strategies to overcome these hurdles to ensure robust and effective data protection for all citizens.





- **The state of open data policy and its implications for transparency and governance:** The forum examined the current landscape of open data policies in Cambodia, focusing on their potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Discussions included best practices and international benchmarks to guide local policy development.





- Showcasing innovative and inclusive ICT and digital solutions and projects:** This segment highlighted various groundbreaking ICT and digital projects tailored to meet the diverse needs of different community segments including but not limited to the Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum, Cambodia Youth Internet Governance Forum, and AI demonstration by hestia.ai. Presentations showcased inclusive technologies that promote accessibility and equality, particularly for marginalized groups and women.



Outcomes and Recommendations

The forum facilitated a rich exchange of ideas and best practices, fostering a collaborative environment for all participants. Recommendations were made to:

- **Strengthen the legal framework for personal data protection to align with international standards:** Participants underscored the importance of adopting a robust legal framework that meets global data protection standards to safeguard citizens' personal information.
- **Promote digital literacy programs that are accessible to all, especially targeting vulnerable groups:** Emphasis was placed on expanding digital literacy initiatives to ensure equitable access to digital skills and knowledge, with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities.



- **Encourage the development of open data policies to enhance civic engagement and innovation:** Recommendations included the adoption of comprehensive open data policies that foster transparency, stimulate innovation, and enable citizen participation in governance processes.
- **Support the creation and implementation of inclusive technologies that address the needs of marginalized communities and women:** The forum called for increased support and investment in technologies that bridge the digital divide and cater to the specific needs of underrepresented groups and women, ensuring no one is left behind in the digital transformation.



Conclusion

The 6th Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum successfully brought together a multitude of voices and perspectives, paving the way for a more inclusive and progressive digital future in Cambodia. The discussions and outcomes from this forum are expected to contribute significantly to the shaping of the country's digital landscape in the coming years. The innovative approaches, including activities like the drawing hackathon for child online protection, exemplified the forum's commitment to engaging all segments of society in the digital discourse.





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Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum
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